

# St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

January- 2017



## Junior infants - September 2017

Parish schools are holding their enrolment week from Mon 23rd January - Wednesday 1st February . Please pass on this message to friends / family .Enrolment forms can be collected from the office and new families can call to meet principal and see the school. The closing date for application for resources for pupils with SEN ( Special Educational Needs) is end of February. This is for SNA / Resource hours to be in place for September 2017.

## School Debating team

Our debating team had a great semi-final win against The Rock NS Mountmellick and are now through to the Midland Schools Debating finals in March. Well done to the boys on the team .The debate was whether corporal punishment should be re-introduced in schools. Both sides made great arguments with Birr just shading it. Best wishes for the final !

## Hurling news

The school received some fantastic hurling gear to support the game at school level last week. Mr Johnny Pilkington presented the school with helmets , hurls and balls from Birr GAA club which came from the fantastic fundraiser last year. Mr Kennedy and some keen hurlers from 4th class accepted the gear on behalf of the school and thanked Johnny and the Birr GAA club for their continued support. Our indoor hurling league continues for senior boys with plenty of goals and some broken hurls !

## **Ethos**

Catholic schools week will take place at start of February. Senior classes (3rd–6th) will attend 10am mass on Wednesday 1st February.

1st Confessions for 2nd class boys—Wed 15th March at 7.30pm

- Boys to wear full school uniforms

Also great to hear praise for our boys 2nd / 6th as they do readings / prayers and bring up gifts in a manner that represents the whole school in good light. Mile buiochas to all.

## **Text-a-parent system**

We would ask parents/guardians to keep school informed of any changes in mobile numbers as home-school communication is very important for us.

## **School opening times**

We have noticed that some boys arrive at school very early in the morning. Despite it being cold and wet waiting outside in our yard, the boys are not supervised before 9.10am. School starts at 9.20am and so we ask parents/guardians to bear their child's safety in mind when dropping to school.

## **Chess with John**

We are delighted to have Mr John Alfred back to teach and inspire the boys of 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes in the world of playing chess. We hope to have a tournament at the end of the 5 weeks. Chess takes place each Friday.

## **Credit Union Quiz**

Thanks to Mrs Kelly for organising trials for our school team.

U-13 team is : Darragh McNamara , Cameron Molloy , Darragh Guilfoyle and Ben Miller

U-11 team is : Steven Dillon / Conor Kelly / Conor Lally-Greijmans and Charlie Loughnane

Both teams enjoyed the night with the u11 team coming joint 3rd- Well done to all ;)

## **School Attendance**

Great attendance stats from term 1 with 26 boys at 100% for the term and lots of boys with improved attendance. Boys with 100% and improvers were presented with certs .The winners of our attendance team ( Boys 1st-6th) were team 3-They will get a trip to Tearaways as prize for having the best overall team attendance ( highest average from 75 days) as with our school plan.

## Warrior Run 2017

Our warrior run for term 2 started this week. It is an OPTIONAL walk / run of laps around the school each Mon / Fri morning from 9.10-9.20. Mr Crofton will start from basketball court. This year we are going to run to Dublin—Phoenix park- Operation Transformation- by mid term break Boys count their laps and teachers record each day. Laps are added on our display and progress can be seen.

All boys are encouraged to take part and will be supervised. Prizes will be given out by class teachers at the end for boys who embrace the warrior run in the spirit that it is designed through a draw system.

The school is taking part in Operation Transformation 10@10 programme on 10th February this year also- Should be fun !

## HSCL Update

Hard to believe that January is done and dusted!!

As we face into February our midterm break is only around the bend. With this in mind we are really encouraging full attendance across the board. I was super impressed at the school assembly on the 18th January by all the boys who had full or almost full attendance. Keep up the good work. Mairead Keevey, Mr. Crofton and myself are continuously checking the roll books and keeping an eye on everyone's attendance.

This is going to be one busy term. I urge parents to keep an eye out for the lovely 'yellow' notes that come home in the boy's bags. Maths for Fun, Grandparent's Day, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Zumba, Walking, Baking and much more will be coming your way this term. It is so important to read and reply to these notes so as no one is left disappointed. We will also be hosting an information evening in the next couple of weeks about Internet/Phone safety. Do you know what your child is doing online?! This is a fantastic presentation so WATCH THIS SPACE!!

Finally, as always, please don't be afraid to pop in, say hello, volunteer. It is OUR school. We are always looking for your input....and with that said....I NEED A COUPLE OF FRUIT VOLUNTEERS!! You can contact me on 086 6045024 or hscbirr@gmail.com

Kindest regards,  
Richelle

**Junior Infants:** In Junior Infants we have been exploring the theme of weather. We have been describing the weather in Irish; we recorded the weather using weather symbols. We have been singing some songs about weather. Junior Infants also made umbrellas from paper plates and painted them using lots of colours and patterns.

**Senior Infants:** Senior Infants learned a new poem – Star Light Star Bright. We also became Vincent Van Gogh and made our own paintings of ‘A Starry Night’. We also did paintings using marbles – it was really fun!

**First Class:** 1<sup>st</sup> class enjoyed learning about the lifecycle of penguins. We even made our own penguins from card and put a felt hat and scarf on them to keep them warm.

**Second Class:** The Chinese New Year celebrations began on January 28<sup>th</sup> this year. Second class have been learning all about China and the Chinese New Year. The boys in our class were born in the years of the pig, rat and ox and our teacher is a tiger!! This year is the year of the rooster. The boys have enjoyed making paper chains to decorate our door, Chinese lanterns for our classroom and have even tried their hand at Chinese writing! It’s been a great start to what promises to be a big year for second class.

**Third Class:** Third class have really enjoyed using the new computer room to research projects. The boys have started learning how to present their work using Microsoft Word.

**Fourth Class:** 4<sup>th</sup> class have started to touch up on their baking skills making and eating buns. They will now progress on to biscuits.

**Fifth Class:** We entered the New Year with a bang by creating our very own New Year’s Eve fireworks in our art work. We also prepared and entered our books for the “Scríobh Leabhar Gaeilge” competition. Táimid ag súil go mór leis na torthaí.

**Sixth Class:** 6<sup>th</sup> class are enjoying learning Scratch programming using our new computer room. Scratch is a programming language where children can program and share interactive media such as stories, games, and animation. Scratch is great to help the boys think creatively, work collaboratively and reason systematically. We hope to enter the National Scratch competition later this year.

**Mr. Carroll:** Mr. Carroll’s boys started swimming this month. They are enjoying 8 weeks of swimming lessons and are getting more confident in the water each week. They also really enjoy the free-time to play in the pool after the lessons.

**Ms. Kenny:** Ms. Kenny’s class had two trips to Tesco this month. We bought ingredients and made burgers, scones and buns.